



# SITUATION REPORT #131



**INCIDENT NAME:** Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

|                         |  |                  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| DATE: December 10, 2020 | TIME: 14:00<br>Information is updated at 2pm daily | MISSION #20-0265 |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|

**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

| 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)<br>Walla Walla County Residents -                        | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total Confirmed Cases   | 2632   |
| Recovered   | 2259   |
| Deaths  | 27     |
|   |        |
| In-County Residents – Hospitalized<br>Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center     | 12     |
| Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized<br>Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center | 5      |
|   |        |
| Tests Submitted –   | Number |
|   |        |
| Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) unable to update at DOH                                 | 30,095 |
|   |        |
| Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence   | Number |
| Burbank/Wallula   | 155    |
| College Place   | 381    |
| Dixie   | 9      |
| Prescott  | 50     |
| Touchet/Lowden  | 45     |
| Waitsburg   | 34     |
| Walla Walla   | 1958   |
|   |        |
| <b>Total</b>  | 2632   |



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| Confirmed Cases by Age    |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Confirmed Cases by Age    | Number      |
| Under 20                  | 338         |
| 20-39                     | 1056        |
| 40-59                     | 765         |
| 60-79                     | 350         |
| Over 80                   | 123         |
| Confirmed Cases by Gender |             |
| Confirmed Cases by Gender | Number      |
| Female                    | 1207        |
| Male                      | 1425        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>2632</b> |

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 12/16 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH has hired a nurse to start next week
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH has 700 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for all residents
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH 'Health Space' and CREST training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance



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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 12/14/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

### 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

| WA State Tracking Number | Request Date | Agency                     | Current Status |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| WA-2020113015669         | 11/30/20     | WWCEM Bulk BYD N95 Request | Delivered      |
| WA-202012716583          | 12/7/20      | WWCEM Tier 1 PPE Request   | Accepted       |
| WA-202012716349          | 12/7/20      | WWCEM Bulk BYD N95 Request | Accepted       |

### ***December 10, 2020***

1. **Effective Strategies and Successes** (*annotations for successes through the end of November archived to abbreviate this report*)
  - DCH/PSMMC flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
  - PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
  - Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.



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- First responders have gone through PSMCC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.
- VA survey out to staff regarding “will staff get vaccination” (300 have completed the survey with a majority expressing interest in getting the vaccine).
- PSMCC Lab Corp test turnaround time dropped from 66 hours to 51 hours.

## 2. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 2632
    - ❖ Recovered: 2259
    - ❖ Active: 346
      - Home Isolation: 334
    - ❖ Hospitalized: 17 (12 are Walla Walla County residents, 5 are Out of County residents)
    - ❖ Deaths: 27
  - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
    - ❖ 15 incarcerated active
    - ❖ 7 staff active
    - ❖ 12/9 total of 71 new cases included 35 WA State Penitentiary inmates who were missing from previous days’ reporting. 34 of those inmates have already recovered.
  - Positivity rate for last week 11/7 – 11/13 15%
  - Trends:
    - ❖ Case count is plateauing
    - ❖ Family and household transmission
    - ❖ Some from holiday gatherings
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- Highly complicated processes for storage and administration of Pfizer COVID vaccine.
- ‘COVID fatigue’ is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Logistics of administering COVID vaccine to home-bound population.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.

## 3. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).



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- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday. Meeting twice today, December 7, 2020, with legislative representatives to discuss business concerns.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- PSMMC/DCH Vaccine Planning meeting Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- DOH Vaccine Planning Partner call Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- PSMMC is now offering rapid testing for first responders through the Urgent Care drive through or College Place Express Care. Asymptomatic testing is available through drive through only.
- PSMMC have completed site logistics for administering vaccine to employees and EMS personnel.
- DCH will share COVID vaccine training opportunities; seminar series starting next week.
- WWEM will receive additional 20,000 BYD N95 masks, 40,000 remaining of the allocation from the State.
- Department of Revenue working with businesses to defer taxes for businesses impacts by new restrictions: <https://dor.wa.gov/about/business-relief-during-covid-19-pandemic>
- LTC American Healthcare Association vaccine training today, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:
  - Seeing spread following holiday gatherings impacting larger hospitals; some patient transfers occurring.
  - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting provided to DOH.
  - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
  - WA Trac training this Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Weekly workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.



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- DCH is partnering with PSMC Population Health and Whitman College students on communicating what to do while waiting for test results, household strategies to reduce transmission risk.

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## COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Contact tracing and disease investigation

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

- HOLIDAYS: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>
- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office